

**ICSE Board**  
**Class X English Literature**  
**Board Paper - 2018**

**2 Hours**

**Total Marks: 80**

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*Answers to this paper must be written on the paper provided separately.*

*You will **not** be allowed to write during the first **15** minutes.*

*This time is to be spent in reading the question paper.*

*The time given at the head of this paper is the time allowed for writing the answers.*

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*Attempt **five** questions in all.*

*You must attempt **one** question from each of the **Sections A, B and C***

*And not more than **two** other questions from the same books you have already chosen*

*The intended marks of questions or parts of questions are given in brackets [ ].*

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**SECTION A - DRAMA**

*Answer one or both questions from only one play, either *The Merchant of Venice* or *Loyalties**

***The Merchant of Venice: Shakespeare***

**Question 1**

Read the extract given below and answer the question that follow:

*Portia:     Go draw aside the curtains and discover  
              The several caskets to this noble prince –  
              Now make your choice*

*Morocco: The first of gold, who is the inscription bears,  
              “Who chooseth me shall gain what many men desire”;*

- (i) Who is Morocco? How did he introduce to Portia when they first met in an earlier scene?[3]
- (ii) How would Morocco know that he had made the right choice? What would his reward be?
- (iii) Which casket did Morocco finally choose? What reasons did he give for rejecting the casket made of lead?
- (iv) What two Objects does Morocco find in the casket of his choice? What reason does he give to Portia for leaving in haste?
- (v) How does Portia respond to Morocco's parting words? What does this reveal of her nature?



## Question 2

Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:

*Bassanio : Were you the doctor, and I knew you not?*  
*Gratiano : Were you the clerk?*  
*Antonio : Sweet lady, you have given me life and living*  
*For here I read for certain that my ships*  
*Are safely come to road*  
*Portia : How now Lorenzo!*  
*My clerk hath some good comforts too for you.*

- Where does this scene take place? What had Portia directed Antonio to give
- (i) to Bassanio just moments before the above words were spoken? [3]
- Portia had just given Antonio, Bassanio and Gratiano a letter to read. Who had
- (ii) written this letter? What does Bassanio learn about Portia from this letter? [3]
- (iii) What good news Portia have for Antonio? How does he respond to it? [3]
- (iv) To whom does Portia refer as 'My clerk'? What good comforts does the 'clerk' have for Lorenzo? [3]
- (v) How was Bassanio persuaded to give away the ring that Portia had given him at the time of their marriage? What does this reveal of Bassanio's relationship with Antonio? [4]

**OR**

## Loyalties: John Galsworthy

### Question 3:

Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:

*Margaret : Here the wind!*  
*Winsor : What's the move now, General?*  
*Canyang : You and I had better see the inspector in De Levis's room*  
*e : Winsor. [To the others] if you'll all be handy. In case he wants to put Questions for himself*  
*Margaret : I hope he'll want me; it's just too thrilling*  
*I hope he won't want me; I am dog-tired. Come on*  
*Dancy : Mobil.*  
*[He puts his arm in his wife's]*  
*Canyang : Just a minute, Charles.*  
*e :*

- (i) Who is Margaret? Why does she say 'Here's the wind!'?
- (ii) Why does Canyange suggest that they see the Inspector in De Levis' room? What does Margaret find 'thrilling'?

- (iii) Who enters soon after? What had this person been asked to do earlier?
- (iv) How does De Levis happen to have such a large sum of money on that particular day? What steps does he take to keep the money safe?
- (v) Whom does De Levis suspect of having stolen his money? What leads Canyange to suspect the same person? What is Canyange's opinion of this person?

#### **Question 4**

- (i) Where is this scene set? What had Dancy just confessed to Mabel?
- (ii) What had Dancy's lawyer suggested he should do? Why had he made this suggestion?
- (iii) How does Mabel express her loyalty to Dancy soon after he had made the confession? Who knocks at the door at this point?
- (iv) Who else enters the house? What sound do they all hear? Why does Mabel faint?
- (v) What message did Dancy's letter contain?  
What is your opinion of Dancy at the end of the play?

### **SECTION B - POETRY**

*Answer one or both questions from this Section.*

#### **A Collection of poems**

#### **Question 5**

Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:

*"I'm grateful, Sir", he whispered, as I handed my canteen  
And smiled a smile that was, I think, the brightest that I've seen.*

*"Seems silly a man my size so full of vim and zest  
Could find himself defeated by a small pain in his chest."*

(Small pain in my chest – Michael Mack)

- (i) Where is 'he' when the narrator encounters him? Describe the scene around him.
- (ii) What does 'he' ask the narrator for? What reasons does he give for his request?
- (iii) What does the narrator see when he looks at him? How do we know that 'he' is very young and completely unaware of the seriousness of his injury?
- (iv) How does 'he' describe the battle that he had been fought the night before and his role in it?
- (v) What feeling do you think the narrator must have experienced when he 'put' his arms around

him?

What is the central theme of this poem?

### Question 6

Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:

*I am going out rarely, now and then*

*Only, this is price of old age*

*But my health is O.K.*

*(The professor – Nissim Ezekiel)*

- I. Who is the speaker? What relationship did he share with the listener?
- II. How many sons does the speaker have? What does he say about them?
- III. What are the names of the speaker's daughters? Why does the speaker believe that his daughters are 'well settled in life'?
- IV. How old is the speaker? Why does he say that his health is 'OK'? What reason does he give to explain his state of health?
- V. What characteristics typical of Indian speech and thought does the poet make fun of through this poem?

### SECTION C - PROSE

Answer one or both questions from only ONE book you have studied, either A collection or **Short stories** or **Animal Farm** or **To Sir with Love**

#### **A Collection of Short stories**

### Question 7.

Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:

*Sher Singh could feel immediately the heat of the boy's body burning through the cotton cloth.*

*He felt the weight too, and he wondered how he was going to manage.*

*'He is too big for you' said the mother. She spoke in the whisper of despair.*

*'You will never get there.'*

*Sher Singh said nothing.*

*He set off.*

- (i) Who was the 'boy'? Why was Sher Singh sure that the little boy would die?
- (ii) What did Sher Singh's father do for a living? Mention any two acts of courage he had performed that had earned him the title 'Bahadur'.

- (iii) How does his mother use her skill as a hill woman to prepare Sher Singh for his long and dangerous journey?
- (iv) Mention any three challenges that Sher Singh encountered on his way to the hospital.
- (v) How does the doctor at the hospital address Sher Singh at the end of the story? Why do you think he refers to him in this way?

**Question 8**

With close reference to the text, show how Stephan Leacock makes effective use of humour and exaggeration to describe his attempts to get back his 'Lost Dollar'.